Public Trust Water

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An Initiative of the Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Resource Renewal Institute

February 19, 2015

State Water Resources Control Board Chair Felicia Marcus and Boardmembers P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: TUCP Workshop Comments

Dear Chair Marcus and Fellow Boardmembers,

I attended the TUCP workshop yesterday February 18, 2015 and intended to address the Board but I had to leave at 4:30pm. Following are my comments regarding the potential TUCP, for your consideration.

As our Trustees for the Public Trust, our water, you hold a unique and essential responsibility for Trust protections, not only for all Californians but for our future generations. The testimony yesterday pointed out the difficulties you face in weighing the differing views of the "public interest" and "balancing needs." Importantly, you must maintain the "long view," what will be sustainable and best achieve trust protections.

Executive Director Howard's presentation to you I found compelling. In summary, the adverse impacts caused by last years' exports exceeded predictions and are not acceptable. The loss of 95% of the winter run salmon clearly does not and will never meet the findings requirement of "No unreasonable effects on fish or wildlife." This and the other equally significant and avoidable impacts of the exports decision to our public trust asset should never be repeated.

Frankly I was very disappointed with the fisheries agencies (NOAA, USFWS, CDFW) reports to you. The Board deserves far better clarity regarding the impacts of these exports to the fish and wildlife resources (which these agencies also have Trustee responsibilities to protect).

I believe Mr. Howard made a very difficult decision regarding this TUCP but it is the correct decision. The Board's accountability reaches beyond certain groups, special interests, and today's crises. It is that fiduciary responsibility that extends trust protections to the future generations. Losing 95% of a salmon run fails that fundamental (trust) responsibility.

Drought conditions are the new reality. Your decision here is very important, as it will speak to the adaptations we must undertake concerning water.

Sincerely,

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